

Death of Peacocks in Ajmer

232. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 50 peacocks-national bird, were found dead in Ajmer district recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to prevent the national bird being killed or harmed by anti-socials?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The State Government of Rajasthan has reported the deaths of 20 peafowls in Bubkiya village of Ajmer district after consuming insecticide treated corn seeds sown in agricultural fields.

(c) Following measures have been taken by the Government to prevent recurrence of such incidences:

- (i) Legal action has been initiated against the offender.
- (ii) Farmers have been advised not to use seeds treated with poisonous chemicals.
- (iii) Farmers have been advised to cover the seeds with soil immediately after sowing.
- (iv) The forest field staff have been instructed to maintain vigil in sensitive areas.